

AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**Monday 18th
January 2016**

Is the final decision on the recommendations in this report to be made at this meeting?

Yes

Audit Committee Update – January 2016

Final Decision-Maker	Audit, Governance and Standards Committee
Lead Head of Service	Head of Finance and Resources
Lead Officer	Paul Riley
Report Author	Janette Gill
Is this a key Decision	No
Classification	Public
Wards affected	N/A

This report makes the following recommendations to this Committee:

1. It is recommended that the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee notes the External Auditor's update report attached at Appendix A.

Issues for Consideration:

To consider the report of the External Auditor on the proposed Audit Programme for 2015/16. Representatives from Grant Thornton UK LLP will be present at the meeting to present their report and answer any questions.

This report relates to the following corporate priorities:

- Securing a successful economy for Maidstone Borough Council – delivery of Value for Money services

Timetable

Meeting	Date : 18 January 2016
Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	

Audit Committee Update – January 2016

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is to communicate to the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee a report on the progress in delivering the responsibilities of the Authority's External Auditors.
 - 1.2 The report also includes emerging issues and developments relevant to the Authority along with any questions that may arise as a result of those emerging issues. A copy of the Audit Committee Update Report is attached at Appendix A.
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2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Audit Committee Update Report will provide a report on the progress of the work of the External Auditor's Grant Thornton UK LLP, in discharging their responsibilities as outlined in the above at Paragraph 1.
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3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 External Audit Services are provided by Grant Thornton UK LLP who successfully tendered for the five year contract from 2012/13 following the abolition of the Audit Commission's audit practice.
- 3.2 Members have previously indicated that they found this type of report to be useful.
- 3.3 Representatives of Grant Thornton UK LLP will be at the meeting to present the report and answer any questions.

Alternative Action and why not Recommended

- 3.4 In accordance with the respective responsibilities of both the External Auditor and the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee, a progress report update of this nature is judged to be appropriate for consideration. To not consider the report could weaken the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee's capacity to discharge its responsibilities in relation to External Audit and governance.
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4. IMPLICATIONS

The implications to consider as a result of this report are as follows:

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Objectives	The report is focused on ensuring that the Auditor's Opinion on the 2015/16 Financial Statements is issued by the Statutory deadline of the 30 th September 2016.	Head of Finance & Resources
Risk Management	This report supports the Committee in the delivery of its Governance responsibilities. It also helps to mitigate the risk of non-compliance with the statutory timetable for production and audit of the annual accounts through timely communication of any potential issues.	Chief Accountant
Financial	The financial implications arising from the proposed work will be contained in the Audit Plan referred to in the Report at Appendix A	Head of Finance & Resources

5. REPORT APPENDICES

The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix A: Audit Committee Update January 2016

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are no background papers for this report.